

NEWS RELEASE



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Find great gifts and help State Parks

Discover Holiday Presents in California State Park

You can find unique and environmentally-friendly holiday gifts in California State Parks. Not only do they make great presents, but they also help state parks. There's a variety of items in state park visitor centers and gift shops including brochures, environmental games, videos, china, heirloom plants and hand-made replicas of historic items.

Here's a sample of what you can find:

The Angel Island Association, **Angel Island State Park** (in San Francisco Bay) is again offering Angel Lights as holiday gifts to celebrate, memorialize or thank a friend or loved one this holiday season. The tree of lights will shine from the top of Angel Island during December and can be seen all around San Francisco Bay. Two books published by the association are also available for gift giving. "Miwoks to Missiles, A History of Angel Island" by historian John Soennichsen, is \$18, including tax and shipping (media rate). "Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain" is a new picture book for upper elementary children based on a true story of a young Chinese immigrant who came to the Angel Island Immigration Station. Paperback is \$14, hard cover \$21, including tax and shipping. Purchases can be made using Paypal at www.angelisland.org, by fax at (415) 435-2950, or by phone, (415) 435-3522 x13. Credit cards welcome, or send a check to Angel Island Association, P.O. Box 866, Tiburon 94920.

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, at 17000 Armstrong Woods Road n **Guerneville**, Sonoma County, has many educational books for adults and children The store also has redwood calendars (\$8), puzzles (\$12), games and stuffed animals (\$5- \$12), apparel and educational gift items about the redwoods and natural resources in the area. Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods supports the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center as well as a Visitor Center on Sonoma Coast in the town of Jenner, where the same types of items are available with a coastal theme. The Armstrong Visitor Center is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Visitor Center in Jenner is open seasonally on the weekends. All items can be ordered through the Stewards' office. For more information, call (707) 869-9177, stewards@mcn.org.

Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park is on Highway 29, four miles north of the town of **St. Helena**. Mill hours are Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The miller is on hand to demonstrate milling grist (grain) on the 150 year old French Buhr stones. Organic grain is milled into the finest flours and meals. The flour and meal is sold in the granary: two pound bags are \$2.50 and five pound bags are \$5. The Napa Valley State Parks Association also has recipe

books, cast iron cooking items, t-shirts, baskets and old fashion wooden spoons. Entry to the mill is \$2 for adults, children under 16 are free. Visitors can enjoy the 36 foot overshot water wheel and see the magnificent stones turn the grist into healthy organic flour.

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park, located at 525 Esplanade, next to downtown **Chico**, has many items for holiday gift giving. The recently expanded gift shop now sells locally grown and harvested almonds and honey. For those wishing to give the gift of local history, the new Bidwell Park Documentary DVD, produced for this year's centennial, is available for \$25. Local author Marcia Wilhite's newest, "My Hometown Chico: Another Look" is available for \$42.75. The book is a companion to her debut publication, "My Hometown Chico." Both books highlight Chico's rich history and modern culture with vivid photographs. Many other books about Northern California's history are also available. The gift shop also offers Victorian style toys and stocking stuffers for \$5 or less. To make shopping easier, all prices include sales tax. All proceeds from the gift shop go to the Bidwell Mansion Association to be used for interpretation and restoration of Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park, four miles northeast of **Arnold** on Highway 4, has a number of gift ideas, such as: "The Enduring Giants, the Story of Calaveras Big Trees," a book written by Joseph H. Engbeck Jr. (\$11.75); beautiful prints of oil paintings depicting the four seasons at Calaveras Big Trees State Park - 8 x 10 prints (\$14) and boxed note cards (\$12); Giant Sequoia seedlings (\$8); Giant Sequoia and Pacific Dogwood seed kits (\$7); and books on everything from local history, natural history and nature. The park visitor center has a wide range of bear gifts, including bear books, socks, puppets, patches, tote bags, CDs and tapes. For more information about holiday gifts, call 209-795-3840 or e-mail: cbtvc@goldrush.com.

The **California State Mining and Mineral Museum**, at the Mariposa County Fairgrounds on Highway 49 South, two miles south of **Mariposa**, is offering a 10% off sale in the museum gift shop from December 1 to 31. The shop features a wide selection of jewelry, including items made by local Mariposa artists, as well as pendants made from real gold nuggets. The shop is well-stocked with books that will appeal to rock hounds, prospectors, and history lovers. They also have a variety of rock and mineral treasures such as geodes, polished stones, pyrite, and crystals that make great gifts for kids. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed Tuesdays, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and closed after 2 p.m. on December 24. Gift shop admission is free. For more information, call (209) 742-7625.

The **California State Railroad Museum** Store in Old **Sacramento** features California Poppy china produced exclusively for the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Whether purchased as a piece of railroad history, or because it beautifully portrays the state flower, this exclusive dinnerware is an important fund raiser for the Foundation. For decades, diners aboard Santa Fe passenger trains got their first taste of California on the railway's famed California Poppy china. Introduced in 1892 for its famed Chicago-Los Angeles "California Limited" passenger trains, this timeless pattern was used until 1971. Long sought-after by collectors, this historic line is now available in museum-quality reproductions. This bright floral pattern is suitable for household use and is sure to appeal to Californians, fans of the Golden State, and followers of the golden age of railroading. The reproduction dinnerware is American made, microwavable and dish-washer safe.

The 11 pieces are available separately or in sets from the California State Railroad Museum Store and through the Museum's website: www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org. The museum phone number is (800) 417-7245.

Columbia State Historic Park is three miles north of **Sonora** off Highway 49. The Friends of Columbia State Historic Park has published a new book on Columbia - *Images of America - Columbia* from Arcadia Publishing. The book contains over 200 historical photos from the park's collection, many published here for the first time. The book makes an excellent gift and is available for \$22 (includes tax) at the Park Museum or at www.friendsofcolumbiashp.org. The park phone number is 209-588-9128.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, on Highway 79 approximately 9 miles north of Interstate 8, has a gift shop sponsored by the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association within the park. The shop sits in front of the Paso Picacho campground and is open on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The store features books, T-shirts, caps, posters and replica Native American pottery. For more information, contact the park at (760)765-3020.

Empire Mine State Historic Park, in **Grass Valley**, has a gift shop with a unique and extensive selection of mineral specimens and gifts from around the world. The shop also has a nice selection of gold in quartz samples from various California mines, gold and mineral-oriented jewelry, and a book selection which covers the park and the local area. The shop also sells a lovely selection of heirloom rose plants propagated in the park, from historic plant stock. The sales phone number is (530) 268-8578.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, located on historic Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn is celebrating a "Christmas Preview" at their Gold Rush Mercantile. In addition to period ornaments, visitors can find holiday gifts for every age and every price range. There's gold nugget jewelry made from gold from the American River, children's toys and stocking stuffers. An impressive inventory of books on gold rush history cover the Gold Country from Coloma to Yosemite. In our Chinese section, there are calligraphy sets and instruction books and parasols. Musical instruments for kids include junior-sized dulcimers and melody harps. There's also the classic "Courting Candle," forged in Coloma's Blacksmith Shop. Phone orders accepted with next-day shipping at (530) 344-1895.

Monterey State Historic Park in downtown **Monterey** has a number of places to find great gift ideas: The **Cooper Museum Store**, located in the Cooper Molera Adobe, 525 Polk Street, in Monterey State Historic Park, features gift and educational items "you can't find any place else," such as a Whimmy Diddle and a Game of Graces. The store also features old-time toys from American Folk Toys and Mountain Craft Shop in West Virginia; nostalgic gift items from Authentic Models, such as Victorian writing sets with glass pens, and models for children and the young at heart; as well as Papel Picado (Mexican cut paper), molinillos (chocolate stirrers), tin tree ornaments, and retablos (Nativity scenes). The store is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on December 9 and 10 during "Christmas in the Adobes." For more information, call (831) 649-7111. The Historic Garden League operates two shops in Monterey State Historic Park, 210 Olivier at the foot of Scott Street: The **Joseph Boston Store**, the first general mercantile store in California, has gifts and decorations from the 1800s. **Picket Fence**

has garden-related items for the home and Christmas tree. The stores are open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All profits go to the maintenance of historic gardens in Monterey area. For more information, call (831) 649-3364.

Morro Bay State Park, in **Morro Bay**, has the Museum of Natural History. The Central Coast Natural History Association has produced a 2006 California State Park calendar - all photographs were donated by local professional photographers and ALL photos were taken in one of the local central coast state parks. Interpretive information about the photos is included for each month. The 2006 calendar is full color for only \$10, including tax. Calendars can be purchased at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, or bought on line at www.ccnha.org <<http://www.ccnha.org>> or by phone at (805) 772-2694, extension 102. There is shipping and handling charge of \$2.75 to mail them (each), so they can also be purchased by mail for \$12.75 each. Mail checks to CCNHA Calendar, Museum of Natural History, 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay, CA 93442. Other gifts found in the park store include: recycled glass sun catchers/ornaments with wildlife, plants and more images blown into 3D with a label containing logo and tagline (\$8-\$10); brushkins animal ornaments (\$7); recycled denim pencils with logo (\$1); recycled denim mugs with name and tagline on both sides (\$6); and recycled newspaper memo note holder with logo (\$6). As a promotion, new members of the Central Coast Natural History Association receive a canvas tote bag. The bags are also for sale in the nature stores for \$8.95. For more information call (805) 772-2694.

The holidays are a great time to visit the 20,000 acre **Mount Diablo State Park**, the crown jewel of open spaces in the **San Francisco Bay Area**. Two visitor centers serve the public--one at the 3,849-foot summit (open daily/staffed by Park employees), and the second one in Mitchell Canyon in the town of Clayton (open weekends and holidays/staffed by volunteers from the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association/MDIA). Unique and inexpensive items can be found at both locations. The most popular items have been two MDIA publications: the Mount Diablo State Park Trail Map (\$6), and the Mount Diablo Wildflowers color booklet (\$9) which identifies 103 wildflowers in the park. Both items make great stocking stuffers. More information can be found at <www.mdia.org>.

Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness, has the highest Visitor Center in California, located atop the Mountain Station of the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** at 8,516'. The park store has a wide array of logo items including travel mugs (\$12), campfire mugs (\$8), ladies and adult logo tees (\$16.25), including the 'Been There, Bagged That' Peak Shirt (Elev: 10,834'), Carabineer pens and combo flashlight, whistle key chains (\$2). There is also a wonderful selection of books, including an informative 'coffee table book' about Mt San Jacinto (\$30). Visitors are encouraged to visit the park's winter wonderland where they are "Keeping the Wild in Wilderness". For more information, contact the visitor center at (760) 323-3107 or the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway at (760) 325-1449.

The **North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association** operates Nature Stores and Visitor Centers in six North Coast State Parks including **Prairie Creek Redwoods**, **Jedediah Smith Redwoods**, and **Patrick's Point** State Parks. Proceeds from the stores help in providing for interpretive programs, publications and seasonal park interpreters. New in the stores is "Passing the Moon Through 13 Baskets" (\$19.95), a look at the cultural traditions of the Tolowa and Yurok

peoples. "The Atlas of the Biodiversity of California" (\$24), is a comprehensive guide to the flora, fauna, and geology of California issued by the State Department of Fish and Game. Also in the stores is "Redwood Reflections" (\$12.95), a compact disc of original music for solo piano by Arcata musician Matthew Cook. Lastly, the Association has released a special blend of organic, shade grown and fair trade coffee called the "Western Tanager Neotropical Migrant Blend" (\$8.50) honoring the bird that migrates annually between the Redwood forests to the forests of Central America. Enjoy a cup when browsing our stores. A special Holiday treat is the 16th annual Candlelight Walk Through the Ancient Forest, a free event at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park on Saturday, December 10th beginning at 6 p.m. Information about the Candlelight Walk and Nature Store hours is available by calling the North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association at (707) 464-6101, extension 5300 or (707) 488-2169, or by e-mail at northcoastredwood@jeffnet.org. The visitor center at **Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park** (17 miles east of Highway 101 on Highway 36) and other parks in the North Coast Redwoods District offer a fictional, juvenile trilogy on the Bigfoot phenomena (\$13.95-\$20.95). Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park also offers the legendary grizzly silk screened in gold or brown across the front of a variety of color and sized T-shirts and sweatshirts (\$8.95-\$17.95.) The park phone number is (707) 777-3683.

Point Sur State Historic Park (Point Sur Light Station), 19 miles south of **Monterey** off Highway 1, features many unique items in the park gift shop, including: a Christmas ornament in 3D brass (\$16.75), a fleece blanket with machine-embroidered design (\$45.50), a wood etched key chain (\$2.50), decorative pins (of the lighthouse, barn and blacksmith/carpenter shop \$6.50), "I saw the Light" pen (\$2), cap with lighthouse design (\$20), fleece vest (\$35), long and short sleeved shirts (\$18 to \$35), a light house needlepoint kit (\$15), posters (\$10), magnets (\$1 and \$3), white thermal-reactive and blue and white mugs (\$7 and \$8) and much more. For more information, e-mail duskat@sbcglobal.net or marsh@redshift.com

The visitor center at **Richardson Grove State Park**, eight miles south of Garberville on Highway 101, has a popular stuffed 8 1/2" Back Pack Black Bear with play camping tent, set-up instruction booklet, and sleeping bag for a holiday special of \$25 including tax, shipping and handling. Another set which includes an 8 1/2" stuffed Black Bear with stuffed baby black bear and no tent is also available for the same price. To complete the stuffed bear's camping experience, an accessory kit including a 20 1/2" toy inflatable raft with toy life jackets that fit the bears, can be purchased for \$10/kit including tax, shipping and handling. You can order by e-mail at rgia@humboldt.net and make checks payable to: Richardson Grove Interpretive Association (R.G.I.A.), 1600 U.S. Highway 101 #7, Garberville, CA 95542-8702. The visitor center is seasonally open May 1 to September 30th.

The Courthouse Museum at **Shasta State Historic Park**, six miles west of **Redding** on Highway 299, sells note cards featuring early California paintings. They can be purchased individually at \$1, or a set of six sells for \$5.00. Contact the park at 530-243-8194 or Lmartin@parks.ca.gov for ordering.

The **Tijuana Estuary** Visitor Center, off Imperial Beach Boulevard and 3rd in **Imperial Beach**, the most southwesterly city in the state, is a haven for birders and Baja Naturalists alike. The newly designed Clapper Rail Nest retail area is part of the Visitor Center's beautiful

sustainable design remodel. Holiday shoppers can find stylish Tijuana Estuary t-shirts, Baja Natural and Cultural History and Travel books, children's books and games, gorgeous photo bird cards, totebags, organic and sustainable products, and more! The Visitor Center is open Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call the Visitor Center at (619) 575-3613.

Visit California State Parks on line at www.parks.ca.gov

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